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Soldiers never give safety a day off

By Lori Yerdon

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FORT RUCKER, Ala. (May 22, 2007) – The U.S. Army commences its 101 Critical Days of Summer Safety campaign with a simple yet meaningful slogan, “Never Give Safety a Day Off.”

Memorial Day through Labor Day marks the critical days when accidents and mishaps pose a greater risk to Soldiers and their Families, so this year’s theme holds great value in sustaining the force and maintaining an Army Strong, said Brig. Gen. William H. Forrester, director of Army Safety.

“As we enter the 101 days of summer – think back to effective messages some of your previous leaders delivered,” said Forrester. “One in particular I vividly recall was given by then Maj. Gen. Dick Cody, our Commanding General. His message, delivered to the entire 101st Airborne Division was founded on the statistical analysis that predicted the division would lose two Soldiers to fatalities over the Memorial Day weekend. As we gathered shoulder to shoulder, with some twenty thousand of our comrades, our division commander asked us all – ‘Who in this crowd will we let die?’”

Each week, the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center will publish articles containing information to help Soldiers use composite risk management in making sound judgments while on and off duty.

“My charge to you and our Army is a simple but an effective goal that proclaims ‘I can save my life and that of my comrade,’” said Forrester.